

CDF Fire Engines and Crews to Montana

On Sunday August 17, CDF dispatched 20 fire engines and their crews to help Montana fire fighters battle dozens of lightning caused wildfires.

Dry lightning strikes peppered Montana the second week of August causing so many wildfires that the state's fire fighting resources were quickly expended. By Saturday August 16 more than 200,000 acres had burned and at least 40 wildfires were burning, many with no firefighters on the scene.

Montana fire officials put out the call for help through the [National Interagency Fire Center \(NIFC\)](#) and CDF responded.

Before they left California, the CDF firefighters gathered in Auburn, east of Sacramento. CDF Chief of Fire Protection, Jim Wright, spoke to them about his concerns. Chief Wright reminded his recruits that these fires are extremely aggressive. They were set by lightning and they are "blowing up" because of gusting winds. He told them that they would be seeing some extraordinary fire behavior and they must watch out for each other. He said he expects them to represent CDF well and to come back safely.

The CDF firefighters will be in [Montana](#) for approximately two weeks. They will be stationed near Black Mountain, Missoula and Clearwater. At the end of two weeks, if needed, they will be replaced by fresh California firefighters.



CDF firefighters from Nevada-Yuba-Placer, Butte, Sonoma-Lake-Napa, Amador-El Dorado, Tuolumne-Calaveras, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, Madera-Mariposa-Merced, San Benito-Monterey, and Fresno-Kings Units staged at the Nevada-Yuba-Placer facility in Auburn before leaving for Missoula, Montana.

CDFers from the Siskiyou and Lassen-Modoc Units departed for Missoula from their Units, for a total of nearly 70 firefighters.

The Department had previously sent 20 overhead personnel to Montana and 4 to Idaho.